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FOUR-H CLUB WORK IN HAWAII AND ALASKA

A radio talk by Miss Madge J. Reese, Extension Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, delivered in the Home Demonstration Radio Hour and broadcast by a network of 49 associate NBC radio stations, April 6, 1935.

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In the language of Hawaii, I say "Aloha." In Hawaii, "Aloha" may mean a welcome greeting or a fond farewell. My Aloha today is my best wishes to the 4-H Club Boys and Girls of the United States for their accomplishments during the spring and summer seasons. Mark Twain said that the Hawaiian Islands is the loveliest fleet ever anchored in any ocean. Amidst all the beauty and charm, one sees peoples of different race and creed going about the daily tasks of life in much the same manner as on the mainland. You will be interested in knowing that the 4-H Club members of Hawaii are of many races: Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Samoan, Filipino, Portuguese, various mixtures of races, and Haoles (Haole is the term used for whites). All these club members speak English and are true Americans, as American customs and ideals prevail.

The Extension Service Work was organized in the Territory of Hawaii only seven years ago, the University of Hawaii and the U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating. Sixteen hundred 4-H Club members were happily engaged in their club projects in 1934, meeting in groups with the local leaders and the county extension agents for instruction, repeating the 4-H Club pledge, singing club songs, attending county club camps, and taking part in achievement programs. Three thousand people attended the 57 achievement events and parents as well as club members were benefited by these special programs. You may ask what are the 4-H Club projects. Garden, coffee, potatoes, bees, poultry, swine, rabbits, canning, house furnishing, and yard improvement all come in for attention by Hawaiian club members. The garden club is very popular. Gardens do not just grow even in the semi-tropical or tropical climate. Club members learn about plant diseases, insect control, improvement of poor soil, fertilizers, selection of good seed, and seasonal planting.

Now, here is a new club project for you -- a coffee nursery project. The coffee planters at Kona have learned through the Extension Service that the coffee pulp and parchment skin, refuse formerly discarded at the coffee mills, make good fertilizer, high in potash and nitrogen. With the use of this fertilizer many old coffee fields are being replenished. The 4-H Club boys of that section are planting coffee seeds to supply some of the necessary plants. Already they have 7,500 of their goal (10,000 seedlings) on the way. That is an excellent example of 4-H Club Work re-enforcing the general agricultural program of a community.

Yes, Hawaii has 4-H Club camps and tours, too. Three of the four counties conducted camps. The largest one in Hawaii was attended by 350 boys and girls. The girls slept in the Hawaiian church, the boys in the coffee sheds. For keeping clean, the ocean was near at hand. All cooking was done over the open fire and it cost each person \$1.25 for three days of fun and learning.

Now we are going to jump from the Tropics to the Arctic, from Hawaii to Alaska. As curious as it may seem, the closest land to the Hawaiian Islands is Unalaska, one of the Aleutian Islands. This point is a little closer to Honolulu than San Francisco. The Extension Service was organized in Alaska only five years ago at the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines at Fairbanks cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The territorial legislature has recently changed the name of the college to the University of Alaska, effective July 1, 1935. In the Territory we find 4-H clubs organized for the whites and natives. By native we mean the Indian and Eskimo. Several of these clubs have been going strong for the five years.

The visitor to Alaska in the summer finds warm weather, beautiful flowers, splendid gardens and good crops. One garden club boy at Fairbanks, Interior Alaska, told me that they used the first vegetables July 10 and would harvest the last about September 20. He had a good-sized garden and it was well planned. He grew beets, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, swiss chard, celery, turnips, potatoes, and rhubarb. That does not sound like any frozen North, does it? That boy very modestly valued the vegetables sold and used at home at \$43.00, and a well-kept record showed expenses of \$7.40.

I found the Indian club girls enthusiastic and doing interesting work. A club at one of the Indian Schools took for the year's work the fixing up of a 4-H Club room. Under direction of a capable leader they kalsomined, painted, varnished, and waxed. Old tables, chairs, settees, and book cases were done over. Attractive curtains, rugs and pillows were made. They had only ten dollars to spend and wise planning made it go a long way. The point is, that these girls, through club work, have instilled in themselves a sense of tidiness, cleanliness, and attractiveness which we believe will stay with them throughout life. 4-H Club girls in Alaska also learn to can by improved methods, to prepare food, to make their own garments, to weave scarfs and rugs, and to use caribou and reindeer skins in glovemaking.

My observations in the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii convince me that the educational methods used by the Extension Service are fundamentally sound and work well with all kinds of people. My closing "Aloha" to each 4-H Club member is that I think you are fortunate to have the opportunity of being a 4-H Club member.

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